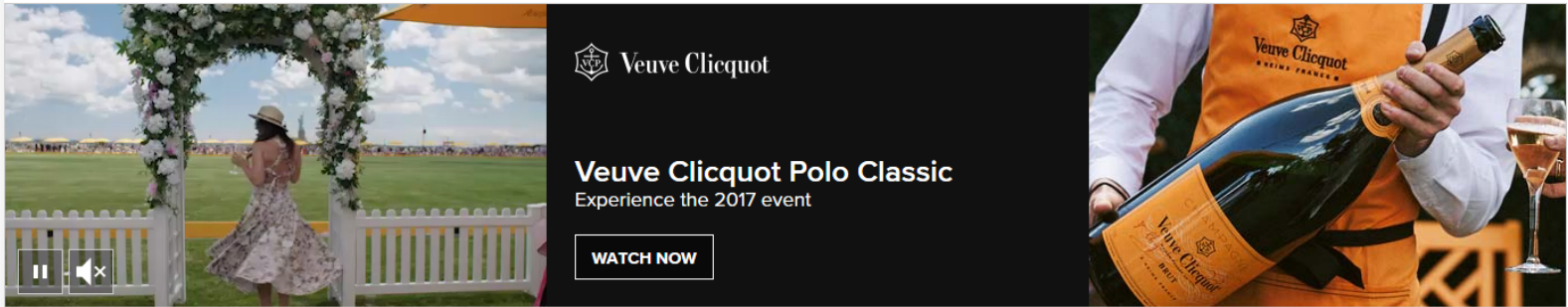



EXHIBIT 9



The Opinion Pages | OP-ED COLUMNIST

The Tucson Witch Hunt

 **Charles M. Blow** JAN. 14, 2011

     350

Tragedy in Tucson. Six Dead. Democratic congresswoman shot in the head at rally.

Immediately after the news broke, the air became thick with conjecture, speculation and innuendo. There was a giddy, almost punch-drunk excitement on the left. The prophecy had been fulfilled: “words have consequences.” And now, the right’s rhetorical chickens had finally come home to roost.

The dots were too close and the temptation to connect them too strong. The target was a Democratic congresswoman. There was the map of her district in the cross hairs. There were her own prescient worries about overheated rhetoric.

Within hours of the shooting, there was a full-fledged witch hunt to link the shooter to the right.


“I saw Goody Proctor with the devil! Oh, I mean Jared Lee Loughner! Yes him. With the devil!”

The only problem is that there was no evidence then, and even now, that overheated rhetoric from the right had anything to do with the shooting. (In fact, a couple of people who said they knew him have described him as either [apolitical](#) or “[quite liberal](#).”) The picture emerging is of a sad and lonely soul slowly, and publicly, slipping into insanity.



Charles M. Blow

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Loughner shot Gabrielle Giffords because, it appears, she represented “government”. She was not a “random target”. Hatred of government...
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While your our rational arguments are eloquently made, I feel you (as well as most of the rest of the country) actually miss the point. When...
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This was a brave column. Let's hope that the columnist's employer and fellow columnists don't take offense. Readers who watch Fox cable news...

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You can't claim the higher ground in a pit of quicksand.

Concocting connections to advance an argument actually weakens it. The argument for tonal moderation has been done a tremendous disservice by those who sought to score political points in the absence of proof.

I invite you to join me on [Facebook](#) and follow me on [Twitter](#), or e-mail me at chblow@nytimes.com.

A version of this op-ed appears in print on January 15, 2011, on Page A23 of the New York edition with the headline: The Tucson Witch Hunt. Today's Paper | [Subscribe](#)

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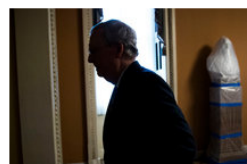
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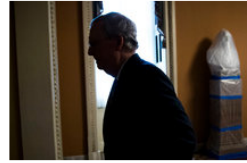


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